

Residents of Terrell complex continue fighting to preserve their homes

From as far away as North Carolina and Pennsylvania, 300 residents and former residents of Terrell Homes gathered together on June 3 to see old friends, share memories, and support the fight to preserve their homes.

Among the attendees were Richard Wesley, well known playwright and screenwriter, and Stanley Terrell, a Star Ledger reporter for 38 years and Millard Terrell's son. The complex was renamed in 1987 in honor of Millard Terrell, the tenant leader there for 25 years, and the first tenant to serve on the Housing Authority Board. Terrell is the only housing complex in Newark named after a tenant leader.

Terrell Homes, formerly FDR Homes, is located off Chapel St. in the Ironbound, and was built in 1946. The Newark Housing Authority has been trying to move people out of Terrell Homes for several years, but many residents have refused to go quietly, and have been speaking at City Council and NHA Board meetings for months. "We love Terrell Homes," said Rita



Residents and guests gather under a tent for the Terrell Homes Reunion



A group of guests at the Terrell Homes Reunion

Fortenberry, the President of the Tenants Association," who introduced speakers at the June 3 event

Richard Wesley grew up across the street from Terrell, and knew the Terrell family well. "Terrell has made me who I am today. I remember what it was like to grow up here. I was surrounded everyday by friends, who helped to nurture me... This complex is part of the history of the city

of Newark. It deserves to be maintained, and supported in every way possible because, who knows, the future of Newark may be within the hearts of some of these children that you see right out here, right now. They deserve a chance, the opportunity, the encouragement to move forward to be the best that they can be. And that does not involve them having to see a wrecking ball coming and destroying their homes."